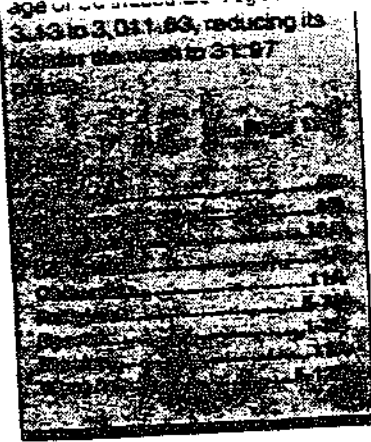


Brazosport
FACT
Sept. 7, 1991
Vol 78 No 1
Page 1



Related pictures, Page 6A.

By MARK L. KING
The Brazosport Facts

ANGLETON — Angleton Independent School District officials and volunteers officially dedicated Kindertown Thursday.

Kindertown is located in the courtyard of the Early Childhood Center. It comes complete with a surrounding wall mural depicting street scenes and community buildings, and

a courtyard with fountains and signs.

"I think we can get a real instructional value out of it," Superintendent James "Herman" Smith said, adding that the traffic theme will work well with safety lessons.

"We're very proud of it. I think it's going to be a Principal Alice Diaz said. P-T-O really goes all out."

The Parent-Teacher Organization initiated the idea

Casale says politics behind sewer snafu

By PHIL RICHMOND
The Brazosport Facts

FREEPORT — When City Council two months ago approved a contract to install sewer lines to the remaining portions of the Bridge Harbor subdivision it was announced that Snapper Lane would be among the streets receiving the service.

But now a city official said the short stretch of road and handful of houses located along it is not included in the contract.

Acting City Manager Meryl Walters said Tuesday he is unsure how the error was made, but said officials are in the process of remedying it.

"That was my understanding. It was to be in there," Walters said. "Somehow or other it was scratched but it's being put back in there. Through faulty communication it got scratched."

But Bridge Harbor resident Bobby Joe Casale said he knows why the error was made.

"I know why," Casale said. "It's retaliation. I feel it's because I ran for mayor and because I instigated the lawsuit."

Casale helped instigate a lawsuit filed by three Hispanic residents seeking an end to the current at-large election scheme for city council members. City officials are in the process of complying with that suit by drawing four separate

council districts.

Casale has for years complained about the city's refusal to install sewer lines to residential homes in the subdivision and has lambasted city officials for the poor shape of city streets there.

But Walters said that's not true. He said the error was an oversight and that it will be taken care of.

But Casale said he talked with Walters Wednesday and was told that the city has no money for the project. When asked if Walters told him the error is being corrected, Casale said no.

"He didn't tell me that at all," he said. "I said, 'I want the sewer done or we're going to get sued, not that they care.'"

Walters said Thursday that he told Casale in front of resident Jack Lee that the lines will be laid.

Casale said he contacted the attorney he called to handle the election lawsuit, Rolando Rios of San Antonio, and told him of the miscommunication.

"He said, 'I had to be'll go ahead and take legal action,'" Casale said of his conversation with Rios.

Walters said the Snapper Lane sewer lines were included in the \$230,000 contract awarded to John Mercer Construction Co. He said they will be added to the project as a change order.

He said the street was not included in the bid specifications and no company bid the lines.

"It's being taken care of," he said.

G.C.
Bra

COUNTY

Bridge Harbor barges into council talk

By Peggy O'Hare
The Brazosport Facts

FREEPORT — Two Bridge Harbor residents angrily confronted City Council Monday night about continuous problems they claim to be experiencing with chemical barges on the Intracoastal Waterway.

Bobby Jo Casale and Ray Repczynski told council they put up with a full weekend's worth of pressure-release noises and a chemical smell they contend were caused by a Hercules Marine Service barge on the waterway in late July. They claimed Freeport Fire Department officials did not properly investigate the incident because they did not go to the job site to find out what the barge was carrying.

Casale and Repczynski further contended officials with Hercules came down to Freeport that Sunday and met with city officials

without inviting the two men to attend.

But Larry Ballinger, a co-manager for Hercules Marine Service, a shipyard that does barge cleaning and repair work, said no work was going on at the site that weekend.

The barge in question was docked at the Hercules shipyard during the weekend and was to be repaired on Monday, he said.

The discussion Monday night was a contentious one, and shortly after Ballinger stood up to counter the Bridge Harbor residents' claims, he and Repczynski had a heated exchange that was immediately silenced by Mayor Jim Barnett.

"All right," Repczynski glared at Ballinger. "Continue!"

"I'll say when to continue," Barnett cut in.

Ballinger said Hercules has never been fined or shut down for chemical releases in the six years

the company has operated in Freeport.

"We have never been cited for one thing, because we did nothing wrong," Ballinger insisted. "If we had done anything wrong, we'd be shut down and out of business today."

There was also an argument over what the barge was carrying. Ballinger contended the barge contained caustic. Casale claimed when he contacted Dow Chemical that weekend, he was referred to the Houston company Dixie Carrier and was told the barge was carrying ethylene dichloride, a chemical he said "is highly toxic."

Ballinger displayed 40 complaint forms he said Casale had filed against Hercules about noises, chemical odors and similar issues. "It really comes down to more harassment than anything," he said.

"If they think they're smelling

something, we don't mind them calling," Ballinger told council. But if nothing is found, he said, "they think we're lying."

But Repczynski insisted he and Casale are not imagining the problems.

"Someone must be doing something, or we wouldn't be complaining," he said.

Ballinger invited Casale and Repczynski to come out and see the barges for themselves.

Casale said in the 13 years he has lived in Bridge Harbor and complained about such things, "the city has never responded to us."

Councilman Hank Lippold said a compromise appeared impossible at Monday night's meeting. "The bottom line is we've got to try to resolve this situation and make it tolerable for both sides," he said. "This conversation tonight's not going to solve anything."

Aquariums needed at Brazoswood

CLUTE — At least 15 30-gallon donated aquariums are needed by marine science students at Brazoswood High School so they can perform necessary studies of marine life this year.

Teacher Jean Loedeman said 60 more students are enrolled in her course than she expected, outstripping her budget's ability

to provide aquariums they need.

Students put together a salt-water aquarium at the beginning of the year, collect specimens and maintain them throughout the year.

Anyone who has an aquarium they wish to donate can reach Loedeman at Brazoswood High School at 265-6161 or at home at 233-4915.

BWA

Continued from Page 1A

Head pointed to the BWA's recent purchase of a one-ton, 4-by-4 diesel truck for approximately \$26,000, but Cameron retorted that item was not in the new budget. Cameron also argued the truck's purchase was justified.

"Six board members thought so," Cameron said to Head. "You make it sound like it's some kind of sports truck to tool around town in." Head admitted he was not present the night the board voted to purchase the truck, but added, "You could've bought a one-ton truck with a gas engine. The option on a diesel is \$4,000."

Pressed to further explain his comments in the press, Head said he did not agree with the amount of money allotted in the new budget for tools (\$20,000) and computer/office equipment (\$15,000). "Should this board believe the BWA has run since its inception

with no tools?" Head asked. "We bought at least one new computer for the office last year."

Cameron then cautioned Head that his statement is only an opinion. "What you've done is said one of two things about me and everyone on this board of directors — either you're complacent, or you're stupid," Cameron said.

"I guess I could take that as a threat," Head said. Cameron laughed and shook his head. "Why don't you sue me?" Head said.

"I don't want to sue you," Cameron said. "I want you to do what's right."

Head retorted: "I think what you're doing here is about as sorry as anything you could do."

Head claimed a list of questions about the BWA he directed to Cameron's attention in February were never answered.

But Cameron argued he went to Head's office that day and encouraged him to schedule a lunch appointment, but Head never called. "Next thing I know, I get a letter from Richwood," Cameron said, referring to a list of questions the city forwarded to the BWA about the board's spending.

After the meeting, Head said he strongly disagreed with Cameron's statement in Tuesday's newspaper that claimed the BWA has been underfunded since its inception.

Head said the BWA's customers were told a bond refunding done in September 1993 would create \$2 million in new money to solve taste and odor problems and provide funds for projects to alleviate corrosion and other water troubles. "If he thinks the BWA has been underfunded, he has a short memory," Head said.

Head said the BWA also promised in 1993 to stabilize its rates for three years, but a year later the board raised it 6 cents. "I'm fully comfortable with what I said and what I believe."

The BWA board also split on the issue of employees and wages, voting 4-3 to limit the number of plant operators to 12 and to give a 2 percent cost-of-living increase to all BWA employees.

The BWA will give no merit bonuses based on performance during the coming fiscal year. The original budget had proposed giving the plant a total of 14 operators, but the BWA will have to juggle with the 12 operators now on the plant's payroll and increase its overtime budget. Voting in favor of these measures were Shelton, Longoria, Hays and Head. Voting thumbs down were Cameron, Earle and Cadenhead.

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BRAZOS MALL, Lake Jackson. Open Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday 12 Noon-6 p.m.

There is only one thing that the 8-year-old wants for Christmas.

"I just want my mom to come home," she said.

Deidre and her two younger brothers, Derick, 5, and Andy, 4, are being cared for by relatives in Freeport and Clute while their mother, Diane Lara Mon-

The Monroys made their career in the Air Force with both having served for the past 18 years. Both will be retiring in two years.

The family recently moved to New Mexico from Tacoma, Wash., where they had been stationed. They plan to make their home there upon retirement,

don't know what Strambler said. "ute. That's what h

"She was on sta-ice members) pac them in a warehou by. And, when they

Cleaning with sand

Windy day work irritates residents

By MARK L. KING
The Brazosport Facts

FREEPORT — Windy conditions and a sandblasting operation set some residents of Bridge Harbor Subdivision on edge Saturday.

Hercules Offshore Drilling Co. was busy Saturday morning cleaning barges with a sandblasting operation that property owners Bob Casale and Jim Pirrung said was depositing chemical residues in the Intracoastal Waterway.

"The wind has shifted 180 degrees now but this morning the wind was blowing right across the canal," Pirrung said Saturday afternoon. "It was really making a mess.

"I can't help but worry about the pollution to the canal and even when the wind is blowing in the other direction, about the wildlife in the wetlands," he said.

Casale and Pirrung said their concerns center around chemicals used by the owners of the barges. The barge surfaces are coated with toxic paints that are used to deter marine life, such as barnacles, from attaching to the hulls, they said.

HERCULES CLEANS the barges for various industrial operations on a contract basis.

"About 7 this morning they started sandblasting and it's not just sand, it's ... highly toxic stuff," Casale said. "They open these barges up to air them out prior to cleaning. They have to use gas masks to go down into those barges while airing them out, but they don't supply us, the residents, with gas masks.

"This morning there were big, large clouds of dust — about 75, 80, 100 feet in the air, and then the Intracoastal Waterway had big clouds of settlement on it."

Casale and Pirrung had said in January that they sat down with the company and discussed the effects the sandblasting operation was having on the neighborhood. They noted afterward that the company had worked harder to contain the clouds of sand.

BUT THE MEN became concerned Saturday when the company began operating in windy conditions.

A company employee said that Hercules frequently employs a windscreen to contain escaping clouds of sand, but that a strong wind had torn it down. They were using a monitoring device Saturday to gauge wind direction and would shut the operation down when the wind shifted toward the subdivision, he said.

"Sometimes the wind shifts fast and we can't shut down fast enough," he said.

"They shut it down when the wind is blowing this way, for

See HERCULES, Page 14A

Dickens of a celebration



This royal guardsman, also known as a beefeater, marched in a parade during the 17th Annual Victorian Christmas Celebration conducted in

Galveston Dec. 1 and 2 — better known as Dickens on the Strand. Please see story in photos, Page 16A.

costs, and lottery retailers get 5 percent as a commission.

In two new instant games begun last month, the prize levels are higher. Cactus Cash returns about 65 percent of the money wagered to winners, while Texas Grand Slam returns about 55 percent.

Welch said the idea is to learn whether offering more money in prizes will generate enough extra sales to give more profit to the state even if a lower percentage from each ticket goes to the Treasury.



Malory Hatfield practices to a numbers song students memorized as

Stephanie Rapp, left, and Je Takami, right, concentrate on the r

Bridge Harbor residents turn gritty over blasting

By JOE DOGSON
The Brazosport Facts

FREEPORT — A contingent of Bridge Harbor residents is wrestling with the Hercules Offshore Corporation, complaining about sandblasting and alleged chemical releases.

But efforts to bring the feuding parties together have stalled.

A meeting set Thursday between officials from Hercules, the Texas Air Control Board, the city and Bridge Harbor resident Bob Casale fell through because of a disagreement about who should be involved in the discussion.

Hercules cleans and prepares boats on the intracoastal canal, and is located a few hundred yards away from the up-scale subdivision.

Casale said he and other residents have repeatedly complained about sandblasting grit deposited on their yards and strong chemical smells coming from the site.

But when he and three other Bridge Harbor residents arrived at City Hall Thursday to air their concerns, the meeting was canceled, reportedly because only Casale was invited.

He said he refused to stay by himself, despite having been told Wednesday it would be a private meeting.

"It's a subdivision issue. It's not my issue," Casale said. "It's between the city and Hercules."

City Manager John McKee, who arranged the meeting at Casale's request, would not comment. But a Jan. 29 memo from then-Fire Marshal Ron Gaines to the Texas Air Control Board said the city has never found violations at Hercules.

Larry Priddy, a section chief with the TACB, said Hercules has been cited on two occasions, once in 1989 for nuisance dust and again early this year for materials storage and record keeping.

"They did resolve those by putting in the proper equipment and addressing their record keeping," Priddy said.

But Bridge Harbor resident Jim Pirrung said it's partly a question of being good neighbors.

"I am concerned about having to put up with the (sand) blasting residue that settles on the yards," said Pirrung, who accompanied Casale to the meeting.

He said Hercules pledged not to sandblast when the wind blows toward the subdivision, but he often has to call to get them to stop.

"They really didn't fulfill that promise," Pirrung said.

Texas Water Commission investigator
See RESIDENTS, Page 2A

Inside

More clouds

Today, mostly cloudy and breezy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. High in the upper 70s. Southeast winds 15-25 mph. Sunday, partly cloudy with possible showers. Highs in the 80s.

See Page 2A

Stock index down

A disappointing employment report and weak bonds pushed stock prices lower on Friday. The Dow Jones Industrial average fell 4.71 to 3,437.19.

See Page 3A

Classified	1-11C
Comics	3B
Crossword	3B
Dear Abby	11A
Editorials	4A
Religion	5-7A
Sports	1-2B, 4B
Television	4B
What's Going On	8A
World, Nation	9A, 12A

ules

m Page 1

Family

Continued from Page 1

grateful, but they they're doing us some nunity service," Pir-and then they put that inal."

any employee said was in the area be-es were built close to company operation.

S BEEN an ongoing 5 years and no state ited them enough to clean up their act Casale said. "Who-ose barges and Her-e culprits. They're barges over there to out, knowing what ng into the environ-

uard Marine Safety veston reported no l complaints Satur-n regard to the sand-kers in the Coast ne Environmental ce were unavailable

improve plan to e of King

P) — A statue of is leader Martin Lu-will be erected on the University of n, officials say.

y sibling, sister

(AP) — A North was killed in a car r sister, who was atches in the back als said.

Cromwell and her 3, were left alone in erday while their ad run an errand.

ieve Jessica, who nt seat of the car, e back with her sis-d the fire. Jessica med, but Katlyn, r seat, was unable

and Andy is in pre-kindergarten at Jane Long Elementary.

THEY HAD A hard time adjust-ing but Rita said she had an even harder time.

"I have teen-agers and it's like having kids all over again. They are typical kids. It's just that when you're not used to it, it's kind of hard.

"They know us but it's different visiting somebody and living with them."

"It was scary," said Deidre. "But we've been through these changes a lot, being in the mili-tary. It's not hard for me but it's kind of hard for the boys because they aren't used to it."

All three children miss their mother. They draw pictures and send letters at least four or five times a week, said Strambler.

"I drew a picture for her," said little Andy, with a twinkle in his dark brown eyes.

Their mother recently sent them Saudi money and a candy bar wrapper with Arabic writing, Strambler said.

"WE SENT HER a couple of things in a box," Deidre said. "We sent a Christmas tree with (deco-rations) for her to put on."

Christmas isn't going to be the same this year for the children or for their parents.

"On the holidays, we were al-ways together but this is differ-ent," she said. "This is the first year we haven't had a holiday to-gether and I'm kind of sad.

"She calls sometimes if the line (to use the phone) is not too long," she said.

One morning at 2 a.m., Diane Monroy called to talk to her chil-dren, Strambler said.

She missed them and wanted to talk to them, so Strambler woke

U.S. steps up military aid to El Salvador

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States will speed millions of dol-lars in military aid to El Salvador to combat leftist guerrillas said to have used computer-aided Soviet missiles to shoot down two Salvadoran warplanes.

Bush administration officials said a spent canister from an advanced Soviet-made, A-14 surface-to-air missile has been found near the area where one of the aircraft was destroyed.

them.

"She asked us what we wanted for Christmas, if we were doing all right and if we were being good," Deidre said.

ANDY TOLD HIS mom he wanted Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles while Derick asked for a bow and arrow.

She is sending the gifts for the kids to their grandmother's house, Strambler said. One has arrived but the other one won't arrive until after Christmas.

The kids always pay attention to the news about Saudi Arabia.

"She's not allowed to tell anyone where she is," Strambler said. "All she said is she is an hour away from her work."

"I don't think they understand why she's in Saudi Arabia," she said. "They know their mommy is gone."

"She kind of told them she was going to war but wasn't for sure," said Strambler. "The day before we left (New Mexico) Derick needed some immunizations. When we went to get the shots, the nurse thought I was his mother. She sat him on the hospital bed and said, 'Let your mommy hold your hand while I give you a shot.' Andy answered, 'That's not my mommy, that's my aunt. My mommy's gone to war.' It was a surprise. He must have heard something."

"IT'S POSSIBLE they might not have to fight, they're talking," Deidre said.

Deidre said if she could talk to President Bush, "I would tell him to give the Iraqis what they want so all moms and dads, sons and daughters could come home from the war. And that there be peace in the world forever."



Instead of spending their days and nights w their parents in New Mexico, the Monroy cl dren are staying with relatives in the Brazospo

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Shopping Center

Pasadena Town Square

West Oaks Mall

San Jacinto Mall

Victoria Mall

(Victoria, TX)

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79

**TRUNK SALE & SHOWING
TODAY ONLY 1-5PM**

supervisors one day last week back to its...
 "This is a day of celebration for all the work they do all year long," she said.

the hospital cafeteria include: booth displays, teachings on self-breast examination, bearing

measures and other topics. Refreshments will be served to anyone who wants to attend and all activities are free.

Residents

Continued from Page 1

Jim Rice visited the site in late April to follow up on a complaint, and said he found the

company in compliance with state regulations.

"Based on the kind of business it is, I think the housekeeping was pretty good," he said. "I saw no merit to the specific complaint."

Although he acknowledged the site would be a nuisance as a neighbor, he said that could be controlled by a city ordinance.

"You have as much latitude at the city wants to take. The city can pass an ordinance to control pollution," Rice said. "The city's going to have to come up with a consensus about whether they want industry and residents together -- it's a question of land use."

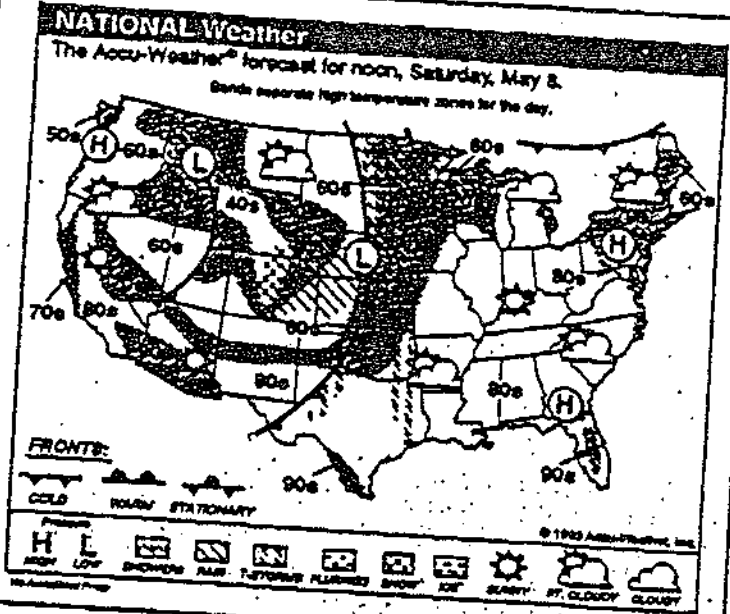
Admissions

BRAZOSPORT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Wednesday
 Ina Lee Haynes, Damon
 Sharon A. Kelley, Lake Jackson
 Rhonda Lee Olewinaki, Lake Jackson
 Thursday
 Emilie Matilda Orsak, Clute
 Roxanne Trexler, Lake Jackson
 Tonia Darlene Tullos, Danbury

SWEENEY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Thursday
 Edna Mae Weathers, Brazoria
 Sharon Strader, Bay City
 Shirley Barfield, Sweeney



southeast Texas ty and scattered storms. 70s and. To with scattered 70. y and to thunder. Mon h scattered under- s. Dear s. 80s. clouds

SUN will set at 8:03 p.m. Sunrise Sunday at 6:35 a.m. sunset at 8:03 p.m.
 TIDES: Remaining high tide today at 3:39 p.m. and remaining low tide at 11:49 p.m. High tide Sunday at 8:36 a.m.

MARINE: Port Arthur to Port O'Connor and out 50 miles: Today, south to southeast winds 15-25 knots, seas 5-8 feet. Widely scattered showers and thunderstorms. Bay waters choppy to rough. Sunday, southeast winds near 15 knots with chance of showers.

West Texas increased. A tornado watch was issued for an area stretching from the Big Bend to northwest of Abilene, where a dry line was interacting with unstable air.
 West Texas was partly cloudy, with cloudiness increasing toward the Gulf coast.

From
BOB C. ARACI
Report

news tip?
nightly until 10 p.m.

223

County News

The Brazosport Facts

Thursday, July 18, 1996
Page 5A

Petrochemical Council plans risk management

By Jason Spencer
The Brazosport Facts

Industry spokesmen say Brazoria County residents will be better protected from major industrial accidents and more informed on emergency plans after the county's Petrochemical Council develops its risk management program.

The industry's county-wide program is being drawn up by 11 of the council's companies and must be presented to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by May 1999. But the bulk of the work will probably be completed by the end of 1997, said

George King, project manager with Dow Chemical Co.'s Process Safety Services Department.

The purpose of the program is to protect residents who live near the facilities, prevent accidental chemical releases and minimize the consequences of accidents.

The risk management program will be an extension of existing emergency programs such as the Community Awareness Emergency Response program, said Cindy Suggs, a Dow spokeswoman.

"This is just a little bit above and beyond what we already have in place," Suggs said. "We're making sure everyone has full plans

in place." Though the new expanded program is only in its infancy and will not be completed for at least a year, its designers have a strict set of EPA-imposed guidelines to follow. The EPA requires each of the companies to submit a hazard assessment on the effects of potential accidental chemical releases, an accident prevention program and an detailed account of plans for dealing with accidental chemical releases.

In their hazard assessment, the companies must predict worst-case accident scenarios and state how they would deal with a 10-minute total chemical loss from the firm's largest vessel, during which safety

devices fail to function. The companies are also required to predict more likely accident scenarios during which smaller amounts of chemicals are released and most safety devices function properly.

The companies must give an account of their control and warning systems, emergency response capabilities and training in their final EPA report. Companies affected are: Air Liquide America, Amoco Chemicals, BASF Corp., Dow, Gulf Chemical & Metallurgical Corp., Nalco/Exxon Energy Chemicals, Phillips Petroleum Co., Rhone-Poulenc, Roche Co., Schenectady International and Shintech.